

Remarks

The office action dated 8/1/2005 has been considered. The Applicant wishes to acknowledge the helpful suggestions by the Examiner in contacting the Applicant's representative by telephone on July 19, 2006, as well as the offer to make changes by Examiner's Amendment if acceptable to the Applicant. Regrettably, the Applicant was unavailable and thus unable to respond in a timely manner.

It is noted that Claims 5, 15 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over Otomo et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,895,310).

The Examiner also indicated that claims 6-9 and 16, 17 and 19 would be allowed if amended to incorporate the limitation of the rejected claims from which they depend.

Accordingly, Claims 5 and 15 have been cancelled. Claim 18 is now amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 19, with Claim 19 being cancelled. Claim 6-9 are amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 5. Claim 16 is amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 15. As Claim 17 depends from Claim 16, which is now in condition for allowance from the current amendment, no further amendment is required. The current amendment merely corrects a typographic error.

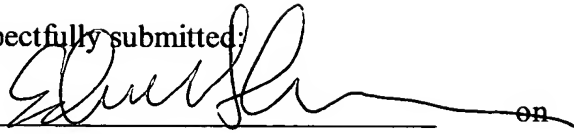
New claims 22 to 30 are dependent from claims already allowed by the Examiner.

The resulting amendments have now resulted in 9 independent claims. It is noted that in the original application the Applicant paid extra fees to present 5 independent claims. According the fees for the 4 independent claims in excess of those paid for is being paid at the time of filing this amendment.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted:

by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Sherman', written over a horizontal line.

on

Aug. 16, 2006

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